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VOTING INFORMATION 1972

Armed Forces Voters Day Marks Peak of Voting Assistance Program–1972

By Melvin R. Laird
Secretary of Defense

More American citizens will be eligible to vote in the General Election on November 7 of this year than in any previous election in our Nation's history. Since 1968, approximately 25 million potential new eligible voters have joined the electorate—an increase equivalent to nearly 45 percent of the total number of votes cast in the 1970 elections.

This growth brings an unequalled opportunity for all American voters to exercise their precious right to participate in the government of the United States. Thomas Jefferson, in his first Inaugural Address, spoke of certain principles of government which he deemed essential. Among those he cherished was ". . . a jealous care of the right of election by the people. . . ." This right is protected today by the men and women of our Armed Forces whose service ensures the safety and security of our country.

The voting rights of our Armed Forces are identical to those of all other citizens. In most cases, however, it is necessary that they vote by absentee ballot. For this reason, we have a continuing responsibility to see that all personnel eligible to vote are informed of the voting requirements, procedures, and deadlines in their respective States. In the Department of Defense's 1972 Voting Campaign, we have designated September 15 as Armed Forces Voters Day. This is a chronological milestone—a point in time when commanders, voting officers, and counselors should confirm that all eligible personnel have received, in-hand, Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) for Absentee Ballots, and have been assisted in their completion before mailing them to election officials.

The Military Services have a responsibility to inform their eligible voters in uniform, along with their spouses and dependents, as to their respective States' voting requirements, and to personally assist them in registering to vote. The Office of the Secretary of Defense conducts a continuing information and liaison effort, not only with the Military Services' voting representatives, but also with election officials of the States and Territories. This dual function is carried out to clarify registration and voting procedures, and to help solve the problems of Service members. Our goal is to provide all Service personnel with timely, accurate information so that they will be better prepared to exercise their right as American citizens to vote.

I urge all members of the Armed Services to exercise that basic right and to make their voices heard in November.

GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT DEADLINES must be met if a voted absentee ballot is to be counted by election officials. Ballot deadlines for the 50 States and the District of Columbia appear on Pages 4 and 5.

Legal Points for Voters

Durational Residency Requirements Abolished

The Federal "Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970"—which recognized the mobility of the U.S. citizen—are expected to benefit numerous Armed Forces absentee voters in the 1972 General Election.

The Act abolished all State durational residency requirements as a precondition to voting in the General Election for candidates for President and Vice President of the United States. The requirement that a voter be a legal resident of a State was not abolished and still must be satisfied. Only the additional requirement that a voter must have resided in a State or its subdivision, for a specified period of time, was erased.

Those periods of time, legally termed "durational residency requirements," had been adopted by every State. The length of these times varied. Many required that a voter reside in the State one year or six months and in his county three months or 30 days.

Congress could not abolish these time periods as a qualification for voting for the other officers on the ballot—such as U.S. Congressman or State Governor. However, a recent Supreme Court of the United States decision, *Dunn v. Blumstein*, declared the Tennessee durational residency requirements of one year in the State and three months in the county to be unconstitutional.

The precedent established in that case could affect other similar State laws in the same way. In fact, many States have either shortened or abolished their durational residency requirements to comply with that decision. Alaska, Texas, Virginia, Connecticut, Maryland, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Minnesota and Montana have taken such action.

In practical application, the Federal law requires that any person who is otherwise qualified to vote, except for having met the State durational residency requirements, must be registered and sent a ballot from the State in which he is a legal resident. By the Federal law, that person will be provided at least a ballot for President and Vice President of the United States.

FPCA Gets One Ballot

The majority of States require an absentee voter to send one Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for each ballot requested. Eight States and the District of Columbia, however, accept a single FPCA to provide the voter ballots for both Primary and General Elections, according to the pamphlet **Voting Information—1972** (DoD Gen-6D).

Those States include Florida, Hawaii, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin. Voters from North Carolina, however, will receive both Primary and General Election ballots only if they so request on their FPCAs.

Details concerning completion and submission of FPCAs to election officials in the "single-FPCA" States and D.C. are found in the "Applying for Absentee Ballot" sections of **Voting Information —1972** as follows: Florida (p. 14), Hawaii (pp. 16-17), Minnesota (p. 27), Mississippi (p. 28), North Carolina (pp. 37-38), Oregon (p. 41), Washington (p. 51) and Wisconsin (p. 53).

Voter Ballot Deadlines Set For Territory Of Guam, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands

Eligible voters from Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands will choose a variety of public officials in the November 7 General Election.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will elect a Governor, a Resident Commissioner, and Senators and Representatives in the Legislature, along with local officials. Eligible voters from Puerto Rico must have registered prior to March 5, 1972, to be able to vote in this election.

Voters from the Territory of Guam will elect members of the Legislature, Commissioners, and a Washington representative.

In the Territory of the Virgin Islands, members of the Legislature and other officials will be chosen.

A registered Service voter from Puerto Rico should send a completed Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) requesting an *application for absentee ballot* to reach the General Supervisor of Elections, Office of the Superintendent General, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, San Juan, P.R. 00903, prior to September 1. This application form must be completed and returned to the Supervisor in time for his office to get the absentee ballot to the voter approximately 30 days before the General Election. The voted ballot must be mailed in time to reach the Supervisor's office before November 7.

An eligible voter from Guam should mail a completed FPCA to reach the Election Commission, Agaña, Guam 96910 on or about September 7. An absentee ballot will be mailed to the voter as soon as it is printed, and should be voted and returned in time to reach the election official before November 7. The affidavit on the ballot return envelope must be properly executed.

A qualified voter from the Virgin Islands may request an Armed Forces absentee ballot by sending a completed FPCA to reach the Supervisor of Elections, No. 3, Crystal Gade, Virgin Islands 00803 no later than October 18. The voted ballot with properly executed affidavit on the back of the return envelope must reach election officials before the polls close on November 7.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Census Bureau Profile: New Voter Is Young, Single, H. S. Graduate

The typical young American 18 to 24 years old, voting for the first time in the Presidential Election of 1972, will be single, living in a family, not going to school but a high school graduate, holding a job, and living in a metropolitan area. This is the profile drawn by the Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The 18-to-24 group is projected to number some 25 million by November 1972, or 18 percent of the potential electorate. Women outnumbered men in this group, making up 50½ percent.

Most of them are single. According to latest figures, 92 percent of men 18 and 19 are unmarried, as are 77 percent of the women. Among the 20-to-24 group, 56 percent of the men are single, as are 37 percent of the women.

Even though most are single, a large majority are family members. For men, 61 percent live with their parents or other relatives, and 29 percent head their own families. Among women, 42 percent are wives of family heads and 45 percent live with their parents and other relatives.

As for educational attainment, 70 percent of the 18-to-24 group are not enrolled in school—including 53 percent who have high school diplomas and 17 percent who have not finished high school. Of the 30 percent enrolled in school, 26 percent attend college.

The 18-to-24-year-old is likely to be in the labor force. Most recent figures show 63 percent of the men are in the labor force and not in school, while 4 percent are neither in the labor force nor in school. For women, 47 percent are in the labor force and are not in school, and 30 percent—primarily housewives—are not in the labor force or attending school.

Sixty-six percent of 18-to-24-year-olds live in metropolitan areas—30 percent in central cities, about 35 percent in suburbs, and a similar proportion in non-metropolitan areas. However, this age group is quite mobile. Between March 1970 and March 1971, for example, 36 percent had changed addresses, including 14 percent who migrated to a different county and 7 percent to another State.

How many of these new voters will take part in the 1972 elections is, of course, unknown. The Census Bureau points out that in the 1968 Presidential Election, only 33 percent of those 18-to-20 who lived in States where they were eligible, said they had voted. In all States, 51 percent of the 21-to-24-year-olds said they had voted, compared to 70 percent of those 25 and older. Census Bureau demographers estimate that even with the large number of new, young voters, the median age of the electorate in November 1972 will be 43.

Legal Residence Defined

One of the questions most frequently asked of voting counselors is "Why must I be a *legal resident of a State* before I'm permitted to register and vote in a Presidential election?"

Under the Federal system, the States administer their elections both for State and Federal offices. The source of Federal power is the U.S. Constitution by which the States gave up part of their sovereignty—yet still retain the power over their electoral processes.

As a result, a citizen must be a resident of the State in order to be permitted to vote. Some general rules are: 1) Everyone has a legal residence; 2) A wife usually can be accepted as a legal resident of her husband's State; 3) To change residence, one must physically move to the new location with the intent to make it his or her permanent home; and 4) The military home of record does not determine legal residence.

Military voters should normally have no trouble registering and voting by use of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) in the State in which they lived at enlistment. Their spouses and dependents should be accepted by that State for voting residency without complication.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION -1972

Registration and Voting Information

The state voting information shown on the accompanying chart is only applicable to members of the Armed Forces on active duty. All dates refer to the General Election on 7 November 1972.

State	Registration requirement for military personnel	To register while absent, send a completed FPCA to:	To request an absentee ballot, send a completed FPCA to:	
			Where	Deadline By Which Voted Ballot Must Reach Election Officials
Alabama	Must register before absentee ballot can be sent.	Board of Registrars, county of residence. See Note 1 (27 October).	County Register, county of residence.	7 November
Alaska	Must register before absentee ballot can be sent.	Lt. Governor, Pouch AA, Juneau, Alaska 99801. See Note 1 (8 October).	Same address as registration.	Postmark on envelope returning voted ballot must be no later than 7 November.
Arizona	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		County Recorder, county of residence.	6 p.m., 7 November.
Arkansas	Registration is waived.		County Clerk, county of residence.	7:30 p.m., 7 November.
California	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		County Clerk, county of residence.	5 p.m., 6 November.
Colorado	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		County Clerk, county of residence. (Denver: Election Commission). See Note 1(6 October).	5 p.m., 7 November.
Connecticut	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		Town Clerk, town of residence.	6 p.m., 7 November.
District of Columbia	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		Board of Elections, District Building, Washington, D. C. 20004.	8 p.m., 8 November.
Delaware	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		Department of Elections, county of residence. See Note 1 (28 October).	12 noon, 6 November.
Florida	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		Supervisor of Registration, county of residence. See Note 1 (8 October).	7 p.m., 7 November.
Georgia	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		Board of Registrars, county of residence. See Note 1 (18 September).	Before polls close, 7 November.
Hawaii	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		County Clerk, county of residence.	Ballot envelope must be postmarked no later than 6 November and reach officials by 12 noon, 13 Nov.
Idaho	Registered by FPCA at the time you apply for an Absentee Ballot		County Clerk, county of residence.	5 p.m., 6 November.
Illinois	Registration is waived.		Board of Election Commissioners or County Clerk, county of residence.	7 November.
Indiana	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		Clerk of the Circuit Court, county of residence.	6 p.m., 6 November.
Iowa	Uses executed affidavit on ballot-return envelope.		County Auditor, county of residence, or City or Town Clerk.	Before 7 November.
Kansas	Registration is waived.		Secretary of State, Topeka, Kansas 66612.	12 noon, 6 November.
Kentucky	Must request registration form from County Clerk		County Clerk, county of residence. See Note 1 (18 October).	Before polls close, 7 November.
Louisiana	Must register before absentee ballot can be sent.	Registrar of Voters, parish of residence. See Note 1 (8 October).	Clerk of District Court, parish of residence. (Orleans parish: Civil Sheriff).	7 November.
Maine	Must register before absentee ballot can be sent.	Board of Registration or Registrar of Voters, municipality of residence.	Secretary of State, or City or Town Clerk.	Before 3 p.m., 7 November.
Massachusetts	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		City or Town Clerk, place of residence.	Before polls close, 7 November.
Maryland	Uses executed affidavit on ballot-return envelope.		Board of Supervisors of Elections, county of residence or City of Baltimore.	Before polls close, 7 November.
Michigan	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		City or Township Clerk, place of residence.	Before polls close, 7 November.
Minnesota	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		County Auditor, county of residence.	Before polls close, 7 November
Mississippi	State registration form sent		City or County Registrar, place of residence.	7 November

Michigan	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		City or Township Clerk, place of residence.	Before polls close, 7 November.
Minnesota	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		County Auditor, county of residence.	Before polls close, 7 November
Mississippi	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		City or County Registrar, place of residence.	7 November.
Missouri	Registration is waived.		Clerk of County Court, or Board of Election Commissioners, place of residence.	4 p.m., 6 November; absentee ballots for President and Vice President only must reach officials before polls close, 7 November.
Montana	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		County, City or Town Clerk, place of residence.	Before polls close, 7 November.
North Carolina	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		Chairman, County Board of Elections, county of residence.	12 noon, 4 November.
North Dakota	Registration is waived.		County Auditor, county of residence.	Before polls close, 7 November.
Nebraska	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		County Clerk, county of residence. (Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy: Election Commission).	Voted ballot envelope must be postmarked before 12 midnight, 6 November, and received before 10 a.m., 9 November.
Nevada	Must register before absentee ballot can be sent.	Board of Registrars or Court Clerk, county of residence. See Note 1 (8 October).	Same address as registration.	Before polls close, 7 November.
New Hampshire	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		Secretary of State, Concord, New Hampshire 03301.	Before polls close, 7 November
New Jersey	Registration is waived.		County Clerk, county of residence.	Before polls close, 7 November.
New Mexico	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		County Clerk, county of residence.	7 p.m., 7 November.
New York	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		Div. for Serviceman's Voting, 162 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12225.	12 noon, 6 November.
Ohio	Registration is waived.		Clerk, County Board of Elections, county of residence.	12 noon, 7 November.
Oklahoma	Registration is waived.		Secretary, County Election Board, county of residence.	5 p.m., 3 November.
Oregon	Uses executed affidavit on ballot-return envelope.		County Clerk, county of residence.	Before polls close, 7 November
Pennsylvania	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		County Board of Elections, county of residence.	5 p.m., 3 November.
Rhode Island	Military personnel are exempt from registration		Board of Canvassers and Registration, place of residence.	9 p.m., 7 November.
South Carolina	Must register before Absentee Ballot can be sent		Board of Registration, county of residence. See Note 1 (8 October).	Before polls close, 7 November.
South Dakota	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		County/City Auditor or Town/Township Clerk. See Note 1 (23 October).	Before polls close, 7 November.
Tennessee	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		Election Commission, county of residence.	Before 10 a.m., 7 November.
Texas	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted.		Office of County Clerk, county of residence.	1 p.m., 7 November.
Utah	Uses executed affidavit on ballot-return envelope.		County Clerk, county of residence.	12 noon, 13 November.
Virginia	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		General Registrar, place of residence.	Return voted ballot by registered or certified mail to be delivered to election officials before polls close, 7 November.
Vermont	Uses executed affidavit on ballot-return envelope.		Town Clerk, place of residence.	Before polls close, 7 November
Washington	Uses executed affidavit on ballot-return envelope.		Secretary of State, Olympia, Washington 98501.	Absentee ballot must be voted no later than 7 November and returned to election officials no later than 22 November.
Wisconsin	Registration is waived.		City/Town Clerk, place of residence. (Milwaukee: Board of Election Commissioners).	Before polls close, 7 November.
West Virginia	State registration form sent with absentee ballot.		Clerk of County Court, county of residence. See Notes 1,2 (8 October).	Before polls close, 7 November.
Wyoming	Uses executed affidavit on ballot-return envelope.		County Clerk, county of residence.	At or before polls open, 7 November.

Note 1: If you are not registered, you should complete the state's registration procedure in time to be registered by the date shown in parentheses.

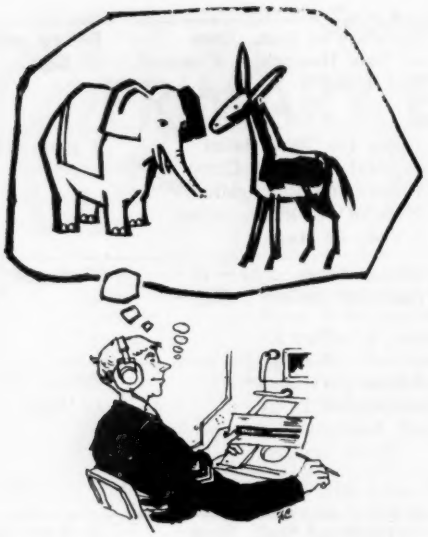
Note 2: If you are not registered, you should include on your FPCA the notation "Registration application requested".

September & October

PRIMARY ELECTIONS—1972

State	Date	Registration Requirement For Service Personnel	To Request An Absentee Mail Ballot, Send a Completed FPCA* to:	Deadline by Which Voted Ballot Must Reach Election Officials
ARIZONA	12 Sept.	Registration may be requested when voter applies for absentee ballot by sending completed FCPA to County Recorder, county of residence. "Affidavit of Registration" form must be completed. See NOTE *(6 Sept. 1972).*	County Recorder, county of residence.	6 p.m., 12 Sept.
COLORADO	12 Sept.	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted. See NOTE *(11 Aug. 1972).*	County Clerk, county of residence (Denver County residents send to: Election Commission, Denver CO 80202).	5 p.m., 12 Sept.
FLORIDA	12 Sept.	Registered when State registration form is accepted. FPCA should be sent to Supervisor of Elections, county of residence after 28 July. See NOTE *(13 Aug. 1972).*	Supervisor of Elections, county of residence.	7 p.m., 12 Sept.
MASSACHUSETTS	19 Sept.	Temporarily registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted. FPCA should be submitted to City or Town Clerk, place of residence. A separate FPCA is required for a ballot for the General Election (unless voter has permanent registration).	City or Town Clerk, place of residence.	Before polls close 19 Sept.
MINNESOTA	12 Sept.	Registered when FPCA for absentee ballot is accepted. Primary Election registration entitles registrant to receive a General Election ballot without further application.	County Auditor, county of residence.	Before polls close 12 Sept.
NEVADA	5 Sept.	Must register before absentee ballot can be sent. Completed FPCA should be sent to Board of Registrars or County Clerks, place of residence. Execute "Affidavit of Registration." See NOTE *(6 Aug. 1972).* Additional FPCA is required to request absentee ballot.	Board of Registrars or County Clerk, county of residence. FPCA requesting ballot must reach officials before 5 p.m., 29 Aug.	Before polls close 5 Sept.
NORTH DAKOTA	5 Sept.	Registration is waived for Service members, their spouses and dependents.	County Auditor, county of residence, after 6 Aug.	Before polls close 5 Sept.

NEW HAMPSHIRE	12 Sept.	Registered when FPCA for "Armed Services Ballot" is accepted by local Board of Supervisors of the Checklist.	Secretary of State, State of New Hampshire, Concord NH 03301.	Before polls close 12 Sept.
RHODE ISLAND	12 Sept.	Registration is waived for Service members and their spouses and dependents when residing with them out of State.	Apply for "War Ballot" to local Board of Canvassers and Registration, place of residence, before 5 p.m., *22 Aug.*	9 p.m., 12 Sept.
UTAH	12 Sept.	Registered when executed certificate on absentee ballot envelope is accepted by election officials.	County Clerk, county of residence, before 7 Sept.	12 Sept.
VERMONT	12 Sept.	Registered when completed FPCA for "Absent Voter Ballot" is accepted by election officials. Requires execution of affidavit on ballot return envelope along with two Oaths.	Town Clerk, place of residence.	Before polls close 12 Sept.
WASHINGTON	19 Sept.	Temporarily registered when executed affidavit on ballot return envelope is accepted by election officials. Only one FPCA is required to effect registration and ballots for Primary and General Elections.	Secretary of State, State of Washington, Olympia WA 98501 (after 1 July).	29 Sept. (Ballot must be voted by 19 Sept.)
WISCONSIN	12 Sept.	(Two Categories of Voters) Registration is waived for all Service members and for those spouses and dependents residing with or accompanying them outside continental limits of the U.S.	City, Town, or Village Clerk, place of residence (to City Board of Election Commissioners, if resident of Milwaukee).	Before polls close 12 Sept.
		Spouses and dependents of Service members within U.S. continental limits request individual "Affidavit of Registration" form from City, Town, or Village Clerk, place of residence (from Board of Election Commissioners, if resident of Milwaukee). Registration must be completed before 30 Aug. (before 23 Aug. in Milwaukee County).	Request "Application for Absent Voter's Ballot" from City, Town, or Village Clerk, place of residence (City Board of Election Commissioners if resident of Milwaukee).	Before polls close 12 Sept.
HAWAII	7 Oct.	Registered when FPCA is accepted by election officials. One completed FPCA will enable the voter to receive both Primary and General Election ballots.	County Clerk, county of residence (City Clerk, if resident of Honolulu) after 8 Aug.	Closing hour of business, 6 Oct.
		NOTE: Unregistered Service members must be registered by *(Date)* indicated above.	*Be sure you mail FPCA to election officials so that ballot can be sent and *voted ballot* returned by deadline specified.	



VOTE '72

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

When we elect our public officials, we are granting them the power to conduct the Nation's business and pass laws that affect us as individuals.

This is why the vote of every **U.S. citizen** is so important to the overall democratic system of free Government. For example:

On November 7, 538 electors from the various States are chosen to form the Electoral College. These electors will meet in their State capitals on December 18 to choose the next President of the United States. All the electoral votes of a single State go to the presidential candidate whose team of electors receives the largest popular vote in that State. A few votes can make a difference. In the 1968 election all the electoral votes of one State were won by just over 2,100 votes.

For this reason, your absentee ballot is extremely important. It's the democratic way of voicing your opinion and choosing the people to run your Government. As a citizen, it's vital that you take an active part and personal interest in electing the best qualified leaders for our great Nation.

Be sure of the steps you must take to register and vote in the November 7 General Election.

USE THIS CHECKLIST TO REGISTER AND VOTE BY ABSENTEE PROCESS.

CHECKLIST

☐ HAVE I REGISTERED?—If not, contact your voting counselor. Then:

☐ Request a *Federal Post Card Application* (FPCA).

☐ Request information on your State's registration procedures.

☐ Follow instructions carefully—answer all questions. Print or typewrite.

☐ Be sure FPCA is authenticated by a commissioned officer (if required by your State).

☐ Be sure your return address is complete. Any address, official or otherwise, may be used.

☐ Mail completed FPCA to the proper election official in your State. See your voting counselor to obtain correct mailing address. Your FPCA does not require postage.

☐ Ensure that you complete any other State registration forms and mail them to appropriate election officials.

HOW DO I OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION?

☐ See your voting counselor to find out whether you need to mail another completed FPCA to your election official. Many States accept one FPCA as a request for ballot and registration.

☐ Complete FPCA, if required, giving current address. Print or typewrite.

☐ Be sure FPCA is authenticated by proper official, if required.

☐ If in transient status, provide appropriate mailing instructions, before sending FPCA to election officials.

HOW DO I VOTE MY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

☐ Check your State's procedures and instructions listed on the ballot.

☐ Mark your ballot, and seal it as the instructions require. Execute affidavit if necessary and return ballot to meet your State's election deadline.

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